The step taken by Italy seems to be a The step taken by Italy seems to be a decisive move in the extraordinary diplomatic game that has been played by Austria and Italy for a long time in Albania. Austria placed on the throne of that artificial State Prince William of Wied, "William the First and Last," and Italy promptly countered by throwing her influence to Essad Pasha, the popular hero of the Albanians. Essad drove the Mpret from Durazzo and was publicly embraced by the Italian Minister.

Foiled in her original plan and angered by Essad's election to the provisional Presidency of Albania Austria instigated the disaffected Albanians, both Moslem and Christian, to revolt and distributed arms and ammunition to them. It is this revolt that Essad Pasha is attenuiting to revolt that Essad Pasha is attempting to crush and to deal with which he is as-sembling a force in Kroja.

In one sense the occupation of Aviona, to the certain anger of Austria, is particularly significant. That is, that Italy should have taken such an aggressive step at the very time Germany was attempting to placate Italian feeling by sending Prince was Busiant to Rome.

placate Italian feeling by sending Prince von Buelow to Rome.

The situation in Albania is a maze of religious and racial animosities. The province is under six different and antagonistic tribes and sects. Scutari is governed by a local commission composed of Moslems and Christians. Aviona is under a similar governmental body. In upper Albania, the Merdites, a Christian sect, have formed a separate State. The Malissori tribes remain a patriarchal institution. Greek invaders hold the southern districts. Durazzo and the region round about are under Essad Pasha. Over all, exercising a shadowy authority, is the Albanian Senate, which elected Essad as Albanian Senare, which elected Essad as provisional President.

ITALY TO GET COPPER SEIZED IN HER SHIPS

Metal Cargoes Will Not Be Reexported.

Rome, Dec. 25.—The question between England and France on one side and Italy on the other in regard to the importation of copper into Italy has been settled. England and France have given assurances to the Italian Government that cargoes of copper in Italian steamships, principally from the United States, which have been held as contraband of war, will be released, and Italy in return pledges herself to prevent the reexportation of the copper.

The British authorities at Gibraltar and elsewhere have held up a number of Italian steamships with copper cargoes on the suspicion that some of the increased supply of the metal reaching Italy was being forwarded to Germany and Austria.

Washington, Dec. 25.—The circumstantial reports of the last few days attributed to "financial circles" alleging that Austria-Hungary was ready to sue for peace are emphatically repudiated in a statement issued here to-night by Headquarters to-day says:

"In Flanders yesterday things were generally quict. To the east of St. Hubert a further part of the British intrenhments was taken.

The Ambassador declares that not only left the company which had taken up a position in front of ours and captured 172 frenchmen. In attempting to recapture this position the enemy suffered solver losses.

"Frenchmen. In attempting to recapture this position the enemy suffered solver losses.

"French attacks near Somain and Perthes. as well as minor attacks to the northwest of Verdun and west of Apremont, were repulsed.

"It is stated now that Italy needs all the available supplies of copper for her the Paris press surgeds from time to

JEWS OF JAFFA IN DISTRESS. Zionist Committee Confirms Report

of Expulsion by Turks.

Palestine, but many of them, owing to the cast that they have property and their amilies in Russia, could not renounce their Russian allegiance. It is these Jows of Palestine who were ordered expelled by the Ottoman Government. They numbered 686 men, women and children. They embarked at Jaffa on an Italian ship bound for Alexandria, but before leaving they were rechalded and terrorized. Jaffa they were robbed and terrorized and arrived in Alexandria in an exhausted condition, many families having been separated in the confusion of embark-

The provisional committee's correspondent states that the distress of these expatriates is great and that relief must be sent at once. The Alexandria Jewish theatre community is not in a position to help these families owing to local economic sians

German Ambassador.

Ambassador von Bernstorff was not in

neither Count von Bernstorff nor Bernard Dernburg were there last

JOAN'S KINSMAN VALOROUS.

Paris, Dec. 25.—Major de Haldat du Ass, who is said to be a kinsman of re, is mentioned in the order for valor and disdain of dan-

AUSTRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF ADMITS ITALIAN FRONTIER IS FORTIFIED

Says Servia Is Eliminated From Present Military Operations.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BUDAPEST, December 25. ARON CONRAD VON HOET-B ZENDORF, chief of the General Staff of the Austrian army, in an interview published today in the newspaper Azest, practically admits that the defeat of the Austrian army which invaded Servia has resulted in the elimination of Servia from the theatre of opera-

Baron Conrad von Hoetzendorf said: "So far as Austria is concerned the principal theatre of war at present is Poland and Galicia, where the Austro-German forces are concentrating all their available forces against the Russians. Servia is a secondary consideration which can be attended to later,"

When he was questioned about reports that Italian soldiers serving in the Austrian army (because they were born in the "unredeemed" provinces) were placed in the front rank of the fighting forces and that many Austrians of Italian origin in Trieste and the Trentino had been executed for anti-Austrian senti-ments, Baron Conrad von Hoetzen-



Baron von Hoetzendorf.

dorf denied that his Government was animated by an anti-Italian policy. He admitted, however, that the Austro-Italian frontier had been fortified since the start of the war. Baron Conrad von Hoetzendorf concluded by saying: "The Austrian Government places full trust in its

AUSTRIA NOT SEEKING QUIET IN FLANDERS, PEACE, SAYS DUMBA

Government Gives Pledge That Austro - Hungarian Ambassador Further Part of British In-Repudiates Rumor of Negotiations.

FRENCH FOUND INSULTING.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
Bern, via Paris, Dec. 25.—The Frankfurter Zeitung discusses the French governmental declaration of "war to the end The Provisional Executive Committee without mercy" in an article headed "An for General Zionist Affairs has received a cablegram from Alexandria, dated December 23, confirming in part the report with an adversary who calls "the collector yesterday that Jews fleeing from Jaffa tive pillages of this terrible war which have been improved upon a discussion of yesterday that Jews fleeing from Jaffa

IS GERMAN MESSAGE

trenchments Taken, According to Report.

patch to the Daily Mail says the new Dutch loan has been fixed at 275,000,000 gulden (\$110,000,000). It will bear in-It is intimated that

of yesterday that Jews fleeing from Jaffa tive pillages of this terrible war which had been subjected to violent treatment. The facts as reported to the provisional committee are as follows:

"The offer of the Turkish Government to Russian Jewish subjects to Russi The facts as reported to the provisional our blood and property form the state, system of murdering.

"The offer of the Turkish Government of the Bern correspondent of the Perit Parisien. The Luxton Susjects without formality was be impossible to negotiate with it," the article goes on. "At the same time it has placed it is incompared by a large number of Jews in Palestine, but many of them, owing to the fact that they have property and their some nobleness."

mediation between France and Gern correspondent of the Perit Parisien. The Luxremburg Minister, the correspondent says, had previously made a similar proposal at the Hague, but his suggestions got no encouragement from the Dutch Government.

SUMMARY OF THE WAR NEWS.

been repulsed with heavy losses. The word "rout" is used in describing the defeat of the Austro-German forces extending from the Pilitza to the Carpathians. Many prisoners in all the theatres of the Eastern operations were the Eastern operation were the Eastern operation were the Eastern operation were the Eastern operation were the taken. Correspondents with the Russians tell of the enormous loss of the conditions. To relieve their distress £200 weekly will be required.

BERNSTORFF REPLY NOT MADE.

Plagiarism Charge Unanswered by

Plagiarism Charge Unanswered by

Baron Conrad von Hoetzendorf, Chief of the Austrian army, in an of 'espiens doubles,' or agents in the pay of both sides; by common traitors willing from the theatre of war for the present and says that interest is now centred in Poland and Galiela. Baron von Hoetzendorf, Chief of the Austrian army, in an of both sides; by common traitors willing from the theatre of war for the present and says that interest is now centred in Poland and Galiela. Baron von Hoetzendorf, Chief them the Austrian army, in an of both sides; by common traitors willing from the theatre of war for the present and says that interest is now centred in Poland and Galiela. Baron Conrad von Hoetzendorf, Chief them the Austrian army, in an of both sides; by common traitors willing from the theatre of war for the present and says that interest is now centred in Poland and Galiela. Baron Conrad von Hoetzendorf, Chief them the Austrian army, in an of both sides; by common traitors willing from the theatre of war for the present and says that interest is now centred in Poland and Galiela. Baron Conrad von Hoetzendorf, Chief the Austrian army, in an of both sides; by common traitors willing from the theatre of war for the present and says that interest is now centred in Poland and Galiela. Baron Conrad von Hoetzendorf, Chief the Austrian army, in an of both sides; by common traitors willing to sell their own nation, or by mean war feat to sell their own nation. The feat in Servia has eliminated Servia and Servia has eliminated Servia and Servia has eliminated Servia and Servia has eliminated Servia h on the French frontier, and south and southeast of Bixschoote. The French facing Italy has been fortified since the southeast of Bixschoote. The sorthast beginning of the war. Washington y sterday, it being given out at the German Embassy that he would not return there until Monday, so an effort to get a reply from him on the dwell especially on the part of the battery of the large of t

> terday at Avlona, Albania, and took possession of the town, hoisting the Italian flag. The action was taken on the ground that the rebels against Essad Pasha, the provisional President Vesterday and was attacked by three the ground that the rebels against
>
> Essad Pasha, the provisional President and Italy's friend, were looting and massacring. It is expected in Rome that Austria will protest against the Lullan action, and it, would cause as the Comman rader essant by clear that the control of wheat in New South Wales, excepting only sufficient seed for future harvests, and has fixed a price of five shillings (\$1.25) per bushel.
>
> The Government's action is directed against speculators who have been seeking Italian action and it would cause no German raider escaped by clever ma-surprise in the Italian capital if the nœuvring and daring.

imputation of plagiarism made by a tile line in the Argonne, and further east writer in the Nation, printed in The Sun where repeated German attacks were yesterday, was unavailing.

It was said at the Ritz-Cariton Hotel that neither Count you Beinstorff nor Italian bluejackets were landed yes- utterances regarding Germany's treat-

SPIES BEST FOR DIVINING PLANS OF ARMY STAFF IN ROAR OF GUNS

Says Their Work Is Effective.

FIGHT WITH BOMBS AT CLOSE QUARTERS

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 25 .- The official press bureau issued to-night an eyewitness story dated December 21. It describes four days operations but adds nothing important to the French official despatches already published. A feature of the story is the sharp fighting in which trenches were taken, lost and retaken. On this point the eyewitness says:

"After one of our attacks on December 18 in the centre of the line there occurred an innovation in our relations with the enemy. A kind of armistice was concluded to permit the burying of the dead by both sides. "Of recent actions the employment of

bombs has been the chief feature. Indeed the throwing of bombs from trench mortars and similar smaller missiles or grenades from rifles or by hand became general all along the line when the fighting eached the stage of trench warfare at

opinquity of the front lines of either

emy's position following an infantry at-tack the eyewitness says:
"Save for such moments there is often

no movement whatever in the battle zone. Not a man, horse or gun is to be seen and there are periods of absolute stillness when, except for the deserted, ruined hamlets, the scene would be one of peace and agricultural prosperity."

Describing te general aspect of the bat-tleground the writer says:
"Some 500 yards from the brigade headquarters lies a belt of country in which are hidden the supports and the actual firing line. In this will be found battallon commanders with dugouts, burbattalion commanders, with dugouts, burrows, trenches and excavations of every kind. It is bounded on the front by a long, discontinuous, irregular line of fringed barbed wire, broken by saps wriggling still more to the front.

point at a given time may had to the first suspicion that a much larger formation to which the battalion belongs s not somewhere else where its presence

has been assumed. "The possible significance of the results if the loan is not subscribed to fully, an of such a discovery when corroborated is obligatory loan of 4 per cent, will be is-obvious. This explains why the identification of units with localities by means of accountrements, badges, &c., takes so much of the time of certain bureaus in all armies. As it has been flippantly, but by no means inaccurately expressed, an important part of the duty of a great General Staff is that of constituting army corps out of shoulder straps."

Deceiving the Enemy.

Referring to the practice of Acceiving of trying to deceive the enemy as one of the features of strategy, the eyewitness says: Reports of an intended invasion of Eng land may be spread by the enemy in the hope of causing a dislocation of plans of which full advantage can be taken. Suc-SUMMARY OF THE WAR NEWS.

Russia announces officially that the Germans driving toward Warsaw have been repulsed with heavy losses. The the Allies.

KEEPS WHEAT PRICES DOWN. Australian Government Takes Over the Entire Supply.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Dec. 25.—The Government has taken over the entire stock

The Government's action is directed against speculators who have been seeking to take advantage of the war to inflate

CHRISTMAS DAY BRINGS NO LULL

British Official 'Eyewitness' Lively Fighting Proceeds on Whole Battle Front in France.

FRENCH ARTILLERY SHOWS SUPERIORITY

Panis, Dec. 25.—Despite all hopeful expectation Christmas Day brought no full in the fighting in Flanders and France. It is probable that here and there the combatants found time to enjoy the luxuries and comforts that Paris and Berlin and London had generously provided, but it appears from the Goverament's report to-night and from unofficial news that there were attacks and counter attacks and that there was scarcely a break in the cannonading and rifle fire.

The Government reports that there was fighting in western Flanders, in the extreme north of France, along the western flank of the battle line in the region of Albert and at the east of the line in the passes of the Vosges. The Allies celebrated Christmas by making further advances in the offensive movement which has been steadily main-tained since the middle of this month.

short range, as is now the case at the front for many miles.
"These missiles take the place of proceedies of longer range weapons, which cannot be used with safety owing to the After a general description of the en- the return of the Kaiser to army headof the announcement from Berlin that quarters would mean a fresh effort by his armies. Gen. Joffre's despatches to the Government do not indicate that the German commanders were able offer their sovereign any acceptable

present.

The Belgians and French continued to advance northward along the Belgian coast toward Ostend, gaining ground toward Notre Dame de Lorette. In the region of Lens, the Germans launched several fierce attacks, all of which were repulsed. The French renewed their assault on the Oerman trenches in region of Albert and seized a lim-defences near Puisalcine. The Gern attacked in the Vosges, but were unable to dislodge the French from the passes. The text of the Government report issued to-night was as follows

We have made slight progress before Nieuport. Toward Notre Dame
de Lorette, north of Lens, an attack by
the enemy has been repulsed. This
morning we carried another trench
near Puisaleine and we retained the
position in spite of several counter
attacks. Last night the enemy made
vigorous but vain attacks on the Tete
de Faux in the Vosges.

In Beigium there have been intermittent artillery battles.
From the Lys to the Oise, on the evening of December 23, we gained the fork of the roads from Loos to Rutoire and from Loos to Vermelles. To the northeast of Albert we took possession of a portion of the village of La Boisselle, situated to the south-west of the church, and of an ad-vanced trench to the south of that

village.
To the north, from Roye to Lihu, near Lihons, we also have made some progress. These various attacks un-

progress. These various attacks undertaken with great spirit have enabled us everywhere to hold the ground already gained.

To the south of the Oise our artillery has demolished the defence works of the enemy in the region of Bailly and on the plateau of they are.

On the Aisne and in Champagne there have been artillery battles and several German attacks have been repulsed. To the north of Supigneul

repulsed. To the north of Supigneul (near Berry-au-Bac) a slight advance of our troops has been followed by a strong counter attack which completely failed.

In the region of Perthes and Mesnil-les-Hurlus our progress of previous days has been followed up and strengthened. To the north of Mesnil we took possession of a forest nil we took possession of a forest strongly prepared by the enemy, and to the east of trenches captured by December 23. To the northwest Mesnil and to the east of Perthes we have driven the enemy from the fragments of trenches which he re-

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Dr. Karl Liebknecht.

occupied, and we are now masters of all his first line of defence.

In the Argonne, in the Forest of La Grurie, at Bagatelle, Fontaine Madame and St. Hubert we have re-pulsed five attacks and strengthened our front. Between the Argonne and the Meuse, in spite of the snow and fog, we have made progress on the Boureuilles-Vauquois front.

In the region of Cuisy and the For-

est of Forges our heavy artillery, by subduing the batteries and ma-chine guns of the enemy, has enabled our infantry to take a step in ad-On the right bank of the Meuse the Germans have bombarded the south corner of the Forest of Consenvoye,

In the region of Cuisy and the For-

where we have established ourselves. In the Forests of Ailly and Aprement our artillery has forced the enemy to evacuate several trenches. In the lower Vosges we have advanced to within 1,500 meters (almost 1 mile) of Cirey, on the Vesouze

In Russia, on the left bank of the Vistula, the Germans have been hurled back from one of the positions which they occupied on the right

bank of the lower Bzura and they have been reenforced a point. They are continuin tacks on Sochaczew and to debouch from Belomew the River Hawka and as resisting the Russian effect north bank of the Pilitza In East Prussia and mysl and on the front

FRENCH TRIBUTE TO U.S.

Special Cable Despatch to Paris, Dec. 25.—The Ch merce has adopted a res shown by the Unite hiblts at the Panama P

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After holiday reflections --- now that you have time to think of your own needs, this may interest you. Several hundred suits from prices higher up have been added to our showing of men's sack suits reduced to \$20 from prices up to \$30.

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